

News and Notes.

FOR MEDICAL REASONS the State Hospital authorities have found it necessary to abolish Ward 13 in the Binghamton State Hospital, New York State. It was found that this number had a depressing effect on many patients whose superstitions were increased by their mental infirmities. There is now no No. 13 in the hospital, the wards jumping from 12 to 14 for the benefit of the patients. It is the first time that the unlucky number has received official recognition by State authorities.

DR. OMAR A. KELL has been appointed a member of the medical staff of the Illinois Eastern Hospital for the Insane at Kankakee, Ill.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL HADLEY submitted a report at the investigation into the methods of the Indianapolis Insanity Trust, in which he states that there had been in the county a total of 237 inquests in 1899, 247 in 1900 and 161 up to June 25 of this year. He also found that the affidavits of insanity were all made in the City Dispensary Department and that no friends of the alleged insane persons were ever called to testify as to their condition. Continuing the report says: "I also found that under the old law, the persons claiming to be medical attendants invariably claimed at least two days' fee as medical attendants. This is clearly illegal under the law. I also found that it was the custom of the Justices making the examinations to hear several cases in one day, in one instance hearing as many as six, and charge for two days' services in each case. It is also a fact that up to June 25, 1901, affidavits were being filed at the rate of 26.8 per month; that from June 1 to June 25, thirty-one affidavits were filed and one examination held, or at the rate of 37 per month; that at that time the agitation in regard to the insanity investigations began, and since that time to the present date (July 25) there have been only three affidavits filed and three examinations held, and this during the hottest season of the year."

THE AFFAIRS of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, referred to in last month's issue of the JOURNAL, have received partial settlement in the resignation of the Secretary-Director, under whose management the former abuses occurred. A Committee of Organization has been formed to draw up a new scheme for a better management in the future.

DR. THOMAS P. PROUT, who has served for eight years as resident pathologist of the New Jersey State Hospital for the Insane, has resigned.

ONE result of the numerous investigations into the mismanagement of the Bellevue Insane Pavilion is that a well-meaning citizen of New York has offered a reward of \$500 for the "conviction of any person ill-treating an insane person in any city institution."

A STRONG appeal is made by the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* for contributions to supply beds for ninety women in the Louisiana

State Asylum, who are now obliged to sleep on straw mats laid on the floor, owing to the overcrowding of the present accommodations.

A MEETING of boards of managers and superintendents of insane hospitals in Ohio, in June, was largely taken up with the discussion of the need of an institution for the criminal insane in the State.

THE LEGISLATURE of Arkansas failed to provide for the increment of the insane for the succeeding biennial period in its single asylum. The consequence is that no more patients can be received, and there are many local complaints because of this refusal. The legislature grants but \$100 per capita, annually, for maintenance, and bases the aggregate on the existing population. It is now incumbent upon counties to provide local relief, in order to remove from jails, where they are now confined, insane persons who have been refused admission to the State Hospital.

DR. L. PIERCE CLARK, who has served for the past five years as first assistant physician at the Craig Colony for Epileptics at Sonyea, N. Y., has resigned his position to enter private practice.

THE STATE COMMISSION IN LUNACY reports that a part of the new buildings for the Manhattan State Hospital at Central Islip, New York City, will be ready for occupancy within six weeks, when additional accommodations for eight hundred insane will be provided. The buildings have been in course of construction since 1898. When completed they will cover an area over one mile long. Their cost will be \$1,275,000, and the cost of their furnishings \$100,000. The furnishings are being manufactured in the state prisons. When completed the new buildings will accommodate 2,300 additional insane.

A SYSTEM of out-door treatment for insane patients affected with tuberculosis has been in operation at the Manhattan State Hospital for the past two months, and the state commission in lunacy reports that it has been attended with most gratifying results. Some sixty patients have been quartered since June 1 in tents, having wooden floors on the grounds of the hospital. The patients have lived and slept in the tents. The result has been that old and feeble patients have been greatly invigorated, and formerly helpless patients are now able to walk and care for themselves.

GOVERNOR STONE, of Pennsylvania, has granted an allowance of \$50,000 for the establishment of a homeopathic State hospital for the insane. It is hoped that a free site of four hundred acres of land can be obtained at Mauch Chunk, which would give the absolute use of the \$50,000 for the erection of the hospital.

AN INFIRMARY, to cost \$35,000 is to be built in connection with the Central Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville, Ill.

BIDS were opened at Washington, D. C., for the construction of an extension to St. Elizabeth Asylum, the government hospital for the insane, on August 2. The extension is designated to accommodate one thousand additional inmates. The lowest of the seven bids submitted was \$1,351,082, made by Horton & Hemingway, of Providence, R. I. The appropriation for the purpose is only \$900,000. New bids may have to be advertised for.